

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Social Services	(2) MEETING DATE 11/10/2015	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Laurel Weir/ 805-781-1833	
(4) SUBJECT Submittal of a resolution supporting local efforts to house San Luis Obispo County's homeless veterans and recognize and thank those who have chosen to help house veterans in our County. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board adopt a resolution supporting local efforts to house San Luis Obispo County's homeless veterans and recognize and thank those landlords, property managers, and property owners who have helped or will be helping to house veterans in our County.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? N/A
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ____) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? N/A	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Morgan Torell			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Social Services / Laurel Weir 805-781-1833

DATE: 11/10/2015

SUBJECT: Submittal of a resolution supporting local efforts to house San Luis Obispo County's homeless veterans and recognize and thank those who have chosen to help house veterans in our County. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board adopt a resolution supporting efforts to house San Luis Obispo County's homeless veterans and recognize and thank those landlords, property managers, and property owners who have helped or will be helping to house veterans in our County.

DISCUSSION

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), U.S. military veterans face a greater risk of homelessness than non-veterans. According to a 2011 VA study, the proportion of veterans in the U.S. homeless population was 30% higher than the proportion of veterans in the overall U.S. population.

In 2009, the VA declared a goal of ending veteran homelessness by the end of 2015. In support of this goal, the federal government has increased assistance for homeless veterans over the past six years. Since 2009, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has allocated 185 HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers to the Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo (HASLO) to house homeless veterans. To date, over 105 homeless veterans have been housed in San Luis Obispo County and an additional 30 veterans have been approved for vouchers. VA social workers and contracted social workers provide case management to veterans in the HUD-VASH program and connect them to needed VA health care services.

Increases in the HUD-VASH program in the County appears to be making an impact. In the 2013 homeless point in time count, there were 239 homeless veterans identified in a single 24 hour period in January. By January 2015, that number had declined to 130 homeless veterans counted in a single 24 hour period.

To further increase efforts to end veteran homelessness, the VA awarded Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) "surge" funding grants to several agencies to help rapidly rehouse homeless veterans and prevent veteran homelessness over a three year period in the county. That three year program began in December 2014. Eligible activities under SSVF grants include short to medium term rental assistance, security deposit assistance, employment services, case management services, VA benefits advocacy and other assistance to help veterans find and maintain housing that will be affordable to them after the rental subsidy has ended.

The VA has recently directed SSVF grantees and HUD-VASH staff to commit to work towards the goal of decreasing the number of homeless veterans in the County to "functional zero" by the end of 2015. The VA considers a community to have reached functional zero if all known homeless veterans in a community have been connected to housing and the number of veterans becoming newly homeless each month is equal to the number being housed.

Any effort to get to functional zero will require support not only from the SSVF and HUD-VASH grantees, but also the Continuum of Care and the community at large. SSVF grantee agencies report the lack of affordable rental housing will be a significant hurdle to meeting the goals set by the VA. Multi-family vacancy rates in the County are among the lowest

in the country. At the same time, landlords may be hesitant to consider renting to homeless veterans who may lack recent rental histories or face other barriers. These factors have made it more challenging for homeless veterans participating in SSVF, HUD-VASH, or other homeless assistance programs to secure housing, even when subsidies are available through SSVF or HUD-VASH. To address this, SSVF grantees and their partners are engaged in efforts to reach out to prospective landlords and property owners to encourage them to consider renting to a homeless veteran participating in one of the veteran programs.

To support local efforts to house 130 homeless veterans in 2015, the County's Homeless Services Oversight Council has requested that the Board of Supervisors consider adopting a resolution supporting that goal, thanking landlords who have already helped to house homeless veterans, and encouraging additional landlords to consider renting affordable housing units to homeless veterans.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

N/A

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There is no anticipated budgetary impact from this recommendation.

RESULTS

By adopting this resolution, the Board will increase awareness of efforts to house homeless veterans and may encourage landlords to consider renting to homeless veterans participating in SSVF, HUD-VASH and other programs assisting homeless veterans.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution in Support of Efforts to House Homeless Veterans